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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session

*Official Records*

First Committee
24th meeting
Friday, 27 October 2000, 10 a.m.
New York

*Chairman:* U Mya Than ..... (Myanmar)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.*

**Agenda items 65 to 81** (*continued*)

**Action on all draft resolutions submitted under all items**

**The Chairman**: Today the Committee will continue to take action on draft resolutions that appear in informal working paper No.3/Rev.1, following the sequence indicated: in cluster 1, nuclear weapons, draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.48 will not be ready until Monday, so the Committee will not be taking action on that draft resolution today; in cluster 7, disarmament machinery, A/C.1/55/L.10; in cluster 8, other disarmament measures, A/C.1/55/L.6, A/C.1/55/L.21, A/C.1/55/L.22 and A/C.1/55/L.31; in cluster 9, related matters of disarmament and international security, A/C.1/55/L.15; and in cluster 10, international security, A/C.1/55/L.27.

I call first on those delegations wishing to introduce revised draft resolutions.

**Mr. Issa** (Egypt): The delegation of Egypt is pleased to present draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.29/Rev.1, entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

We have conducted extensive consultations during recent weeks with all interested delegations and groups on this draft resolution, and the present draft before the Committee is a sincere and honest attempt to reflect the remarks and concerns that were conveyed to us in the course of those consultations. A new operative paragraph has been added, now operative paragraph 1, which welcomes the conclusions on the Middle East of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). What is now operative paragraph 3 calls upon the remaining State in the Middle East that is not yet a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to accede to the Treaty without further delay, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

As my delegation stressed when it first presented this draft resolution last week, the draft resolution extends the invitation to Israel to join the 182 States that have renounced the nuclear-weapons option, an invitation whose acceptance has become a moral and political obligation that members of the international community are obligated to pursue if the NPT is to remain a credible instrument and to continue to have non-proliferation value.

I further stress that the draft resolution before the Committee in document A/C.1/55/L.29/Rev.1 is not confrontational in nature but, rather, prompts the remaining State in the region of the Middle East that is not a party to the NPT to accept the same legally binding non-proliferation commitments as all other States in the region — and, indeed, as the majority of the members of the international community — have done, and to refrain from any action that could

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undermine regional and international peace and security.

The draft resolution continues to take account of developments during the course of the year 2000, particularly those of the past six months, developments which have particular significance as they relate to the region of the Middle East. On behalf of the States sponsors of the draft resolution, we urge Member States of the United Nations to send the clear message that there is no selectivity when it comes to non-proliferation and that the consensus agreed to five months ago is respected. That message would best be conveyed by a positive vote for this draft resolution.

**Mr. Rybakov** (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): Allow me to present the revised draft resolution entitled "Regional disarmament and non-proliferation", which has been issued as document A/C.1/55/L.46/Rev.1. This document is the result of intensive consultations between interested countries on the question of regional initiatives on nuclear non-proliferation. The draft resolution specifically addresses the aspect of the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the planet.

In his statement at the Millennium Summit the President of the Republic of Belarus, followed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the general debate and the First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs in the discussion in the First Committee, clearly and fully reflected the well-known approach of the Republic of Belarus to the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones. At its current session the General Assembly has on several occasions demonstrated the ability to reach compromises on complex issues of international life, inter alia, on problems of international security and disarmament. This draft resolution is no exception. It once again reaffirms general support for mankind's aspiration to a world free from nuclear weapons.

We would also note that the draft resolution reflects the fundamental principle of agreement between States on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in their region. The agreement of countries of the region is an indispensable prerequisite for further progress in any similar initiative and for the discussion of ways for its practical realization. In addition, the text welcomes and supports the steps taken to conclude further nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and reaffirms the conviction of the international community that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contributes towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

Operative paragraph 2 expresses the intention of the international community to continue to promote the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the United Nations Disarmament Commission on this issue, and in that spirit welcomes the efforts and proposals that have been made by States in various regions of the world.

We are convinced that this draft is constructive and non-confrontational, retains the integrity and unity of the general approach, reaffirms support for the efforts of all countries for the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones and is forward-looking. We are grateful to all delegations with which consultations were held for their cooperative approach to achieving a positive result, and to the search for and achievement of mutual understanding and a compromise solution. We express the hope that this draft resolution will receive unanimous support and will be adopted without a vote.

**The Chairman**: If no other delegation wishes to speak at this stage, I shall now call on delegations wishing to make general statements or comments on draft resolutions contained in cluster 7, disarmament machinery.

There being none, the Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.10. If no representatives wish to explain their position or vote before a decision is taken, the Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.10. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. Lin Kuo-chung** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.10, entitled "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education", was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the Committee's 17th meeting, on 18 October 2000. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.10 are listed in the draft resolution itself and in document A/C.1/55/INF.2. In addition, the following countries have become sponsors of the draft resolution: Algeria, India and New Zealand.

In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.10, on disarmament and non-proliferation education I should like to make the following statement on financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.

By operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.10 the General Assembly would — request the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, a study on disarmament and non-proliferation education that would have a number of specific substantive tasks; and request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

It is envisaged that the group of experts would hold its sessions in New York according to the following schedule: one session in March 2001, one session in July or August 2001, one in March 2002 and one session in July/August 2002. The conference-servicing requirements at full cost are estimated to be $136,800 in 2001. With regard to the sessions to be held in 2001, the extent to which the organizational capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2000-2001.

However, provision is made under section 2, General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 not only for meetings programmed at the time of the budget preparation but also for meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings is consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution in question, no additional appropriation would be required for conference servicing in the biennium 2000-2001.

The conference-servicing requirements for the sessions to be held in 2002 would be considered in the context of the preparation of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Provisions have been made under section 4, disarmament, of the programme budget for the 2000-2001 biennium which would allow the Department for Disarmament Affairs to provide the necessary substantive service to the two sessions of the proposed group of governmental experts to be held in New York in 2001. Provisions for the preparation of a report for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session would be made in the context of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.10, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

**The Chairman**: The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.10 have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

*Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.10 was adopted.*

**The Chairman**: If no representatives wish to explain their position on the draft resolution just adopted, we will now move to the next cluster.

I call on delegations wishing to make general statements or comments on draft resolutions contained in cluster 8, other disarmament measures.

There being none, the Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.6. If no representatives wish to explain their position or vote before a decision is taken, the Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.6.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. Lin Kuo-chung** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.6, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", was introduced by the representative of the Russian Federation at the Committee's 18th meeting, on 19 October 2000. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.6 are listed in the draft resolution itself.

**The Chairman**: The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.6 have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

*Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.6 was adopted.*

**The Chairman**: If no representatives wish to explain their position on the draft resolution just adopted, the Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.21. I call first on those representatives wishing to explain their position or vote before a decision is taken.

**Mr. Al-Kilani** (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to explain our position on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.21. Resolutions adopted by the United Nations reaffirm the need for all States to fulfil commitments made on the basis of environmental norms embodied in various agreements. From a review of the commitments made during the past 10 years, it would appear that two States, permanent members of the Security Council — namely, the United Kingdom and the United States — have deliberately violated the agreements undertaken in the context of United Nations resolutions concerning environmental preservation. They breached the commitments made on arms control and non-proliferation by using more than 3,000 tons of munitions containing enriched uranium in aggression against Iraq in 1991. Such munitions were also used in 1999 against Yugoslavia.

Munitions containing enriched uranium represent a new type of radioactive weapon, which, when exploded, can threaten the environment by releasing irradiated dust. The results can include diseases such as cancer and the threat of an environmental disaster. This type of radiation can last for 4.5 million years, which gives some idea of the danger posed to the environment of Iraq and of neighbouring countries, as well as the dangers to the health of British and American soldiers who participated in the aggression against Iraq.

It is incumbent upon the international community, represented by the United Nations, to ensure that an international agreement is adopted in order to ban the use of enriched uranium and to take deterrent measures against those States that violate their commitments. We wish to reaffirm here the responsibility of the United States and the United Kingdom for the dangers created and the damage done to the environment in Iraq. That is why we support the draft resolution. We ask all States to respect all its paragraphs and invite members of the First Committee and other United Nations organs to abide by the draft resolution and to consider the consequences of failure to respect the commitments expressed in the draft resolution.

**The Chairman**: The Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.21.

A recorded vote has been requested.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

**Mr. Lin Kuo-chung** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.21, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control", was introduced by the representative of South Africa at the Committee's 18th meeting, on 19 October 2000, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour*:

Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania,

Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against*:

None

*Abstaining*:

France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.21 was adopted by 149 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.*

**The Chairman**: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes or positions on the draft resolution just adopted.

**Mr. Grey** (United States of America): The United States remains uncertain about the purpose and objectives of this draft resolution and is not convinced of the relevance of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.21 to the work of the First Committee. Simply put, the United States sees no direct connection between general environmental standards and multilateral arms control agreements. Agreements of this kind are uniquely intricate and difficult enough to negotiate without having to consider how to focus on, or draw up, vague environmental norms.

Of course, no one could oppose the idea of preserving the environment. States parties to bilateral, regional or multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements should take relevant environmental concerns into account in carrying out such agreements. The United States Government operates under stringent domestic environmental impact regulations for many activities, including the implementation of arms control and disarmament agreements.

While draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.21 avoids the overly objectionable language used in previous years, we continue to question its relevance, purpose and utility. The United States therefore abstained.

**The Chairman**: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.22. If no representatives wish to explain their position or vote before action is taken, we shall now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.22. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. Lin Kuo-chung** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.22, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development", was introduced by the representative of South Africa at the Committee's 18th meeting, on 19 October 2000, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

**The Chairman**: The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.22 have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

*Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.22 was adopted.*

**The Chairman**: I now call upon those representatives who wish to explain their position on the draft resolution just adopted.

**Mr. Grey** (United States of America): I request that the record of today's proceedings reflect that the United States will not participate in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.22, which asserts a relationship between disarmament and development. We continue to believe that disarmament and development are two distinct issues that do not lend themselves to being linked. It was for this reason that we did not participate in the 1987 Conference on this matter. Accordingly, the United States does not and will not consider itself bound by the declarations in the Final Document of the International Conference.

**Mr. Fieschi** (France) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and the associated Central and Eastern European countries — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — and the associated countries Cyprus and Malta. The member States of the European Union joined in the consensus which emerged on the draft resolution on the relationship between disarmament and development and would like to explain the significance of their position.

While we recognize the considerable benefits that can be derived from disarmament, it should be noted that there is no simple, automatic link between the commitments of the European Union in favour of cooperation for economic and social development on the one hand, and savings which could be made in other areas, including disarmament, on the other. Nevertheless, I should like to underscore the significance of the European Union's commitment to cooperation for development and recall that the

European Union is by far the largest contributor of official development assistance.

**The Chairman**: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.31. If no representatives wish to explain their position or vote before action is taken, we shall now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.31.

A recorded vote has been requested.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

**Mr. Lin Kuo-chung** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.31, entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament", was introduced by the representative of India at the Committee's 17th meeting, on 18 October 2000. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.31 are listed in the draft resolution itself and in document A/C.1/55/INF.2.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour*:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against*:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining*:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, South Africa, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uruguay

*Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.31 was adopted by 91 votes to 44, with 17 abstentions.*

**The Chairman**: I now call upon those representatives who wish to explain their position on the draft resolution just adopted.

As there are none, I call on the representative of India on a point of order.

**Mr. Mukul** (India): Before the vote we submitted a list of additional sponsors of the draft resolution. For the record, I think I should mention that the delegations of Burkina Faso, Mauritius and Namibia have joined the list of sponsors.

**The Chairman**: The remarks of the representative of India have been duly noted.

We shall now move to cluster 9. If no delegations wish to make general statements or comments on draft resolutions contained in cluster 9, related matters of disarmament and international security, the Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.15.

If no representatives wish to explain their position or vote before action is taken, we shall now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.15. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. Lin Kuo-chung** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.15, entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures", was introduced by the representative of Germany at the Committee's 16th meeting, on 17 October 2000. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.15 are listed in the draft resolution itself and in document A/C.1/55/INF.2.

**The Chairman**: The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.15 have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

*Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.15 was adopted.*

**The Chairman**: If no delegations wish to explain their position on the draft resolution just adopted, we shall now move to cluster 10.

If no delegations wish to make general statements or comments on draft resolutions contained in cluster 10, international security, the Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.27.

If no representatives wish to explain their position or vote before action is taken, the Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.27. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. Lin Kuo-chung** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.27, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", was introduced by the representative of Algeria at the Committee's 16th meeting, on 17 October 2000. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.27 are listed in the draft resolution itself and in document A/C.1/55/INF.2.

**The Chairman**: The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.27 have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

*Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.27 was adopted.*

**The Chairman**: There being no delegations wishing to explain their position on the draft resolution just adopted, we have concluded consideration of the draft resolutions scheduled for this morning.

I should like to take this opportunity to say that I am pleased to recognize the presence of Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in our midst. We are very happy to see him and extend him a warm welcome. He used to address the First Committee, but this year he is to address the plenary Assembly. We appreciate his contribution to the cause of disarmament.

**The Chairman**: Under rule 120 of the rules of procedure, no draft resolution or proposal or amendment shall be discussed or put to the vote until copies of it have been circulated to all delegations no later than the day preceding the meeting. In other words, there is a 24-hour rule. However, I think we can dispense with the 24-hour rule in this case. I put the following proposal to the Committee: that the scheduled meeting of the Committee for this afternoon be cancelled, as the draft resolutions are not ready for consideration. Is there any objection to that proposal? I hear none.

*It was so decided.*

**The Chairman**: It is just a matter of good planning. It will not be worthwhile to convene an afternoon meeting to consider only one draft resolution. We will squeeze that into the programme for the meeting on Monday.

*The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.*